

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

Taught by Willis E. Bishop
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Be wise, beware of near-death experiences. In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment."

The New Age says death is peaceful, there is no judgment, all religions get you to the same place -- contrary to John 14:6, where Christ says, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one can come to the Father but by Me" and Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other"

Rarely does anyone record visiting hell. I have seen one or two reports on that. Dr. Maurice Rawlings (a heart specialist and at one time an unbeliever) in his book, Beyond Death's Door, reported an occasion of a man dying in his office. The man pled with him, "Get me out of here, I'm going into hell." Rawlings, as an unbeliever, said, "Shut up. I'm trying to save your life." Later Rawlings became a believer and wrote several volumes in connection with death experiences.

Death is often presented as a blissful sort of experience. In my research I found the following in The Christian News: "Raising the level of carbon dioxide in the blood will produce bright lights, a sense of detachment, a feeling of spiritual ecstasy"

In another magazine I came across this article:

AFTERLIFE OR HALLUCINATION?

The media often publicize accounts of near-death experiences wherein patients who were near death later claimed to have glimpses of the afterlife. The experiments of a team of German neurologists recently suggested that such experiences are due to oxygen deprivation, which causes the hallucinations. According to the Dutch newspaper, the team studied forty-two healthy youths who were rendered unconscious for a maximum of twenty-two seconds by hyperventilation. Afterward, the youths described sensations and visions remarkably similar to near-death experiences. Some reported seeing vivid colors and lights, seeing themselves from a bird's-eye view, seeing loved ones in a pleasant setting, and so on. Most youths described the sensations as pleasant and peaceful, so much so that they did not want to return to consciousness.

So, these near-death experiences really do not follow the biblical pattern of actual death and separation of the soul and the spirit. We need to be careful when we hear or read such reports.

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